



Higher fuel prices choking you?

***You're not alone.** From the gas pump to the grocery store, everyone is feeling the increase in energy prices.*

When fuel prices rise, so does the cost for generating electricity. Those rising costs will show up as a higher fuel charge on your electric bill, so it's important to take action NOW.

While we are unable to control the price of fuel used to produce and deliver electricity, the City of Boerne and LCRA are committed to helping you keep costs down with energy conservation measures.



Start at home with the first in a series of these no cost, low cost tips to save energy and money:

Curb your Temperature. Set the thermostat at 78 degrees or higher. For each degree you raise your thermostat you can save about 5 percent on the cooling portion of your energy bill.

Clean Up. Clean or replace filters monthly or as needed to increase efficiency of your cooling system.

Keep it Moving. Run ceiling and portable fans in the room you occupy. They take less electricity to operate and make you feel about 4 to 6 degrees cooler.

Seek Shade. Close drapes during the day. Solar screens on west-facing windows also keep the sun at bay.

Turn it Off. Turn off lights and appliances when not in use.

Lower the Temp. Set the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. Taking short showers rather than baths saves energy and water.

For the complete series of energy conservation tips visit: **www.lcra.org**

For more information, call the City of Boerne at (830) 249-9511.



Having trouble making ends meet?

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Seal the Deal. Air leaks around windows and doors create drafts. They are easy to find and correct with caulk or weather stripping. Combined with increased insulation levels, you may save as much as 20 percent on cooling bills.

Program It. Consider installing a programmable thermostat so cooling equipment runs only when you need it and not when you're away.

Lighten Up. Almost a quarter of the energy used in our homes is to keep the lights on. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) when possible. They use 50 to 80 percent less energy.

Load It Up. When operating the dishwasher or washing machine, make sure the load is full so you run fewer loads and less electricity is used.

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www.ci.boerne.tx.us



Keep more of these in your wallet.

We're all looking for ways to save money. From the gas pump to the grocery store, we're all feeling the pinch resulting from the increased cost of energy prices.

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Start at the Top. *The easiest place to add insulation is in the attic. Look across your attic floor. If the insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you probably need to add more insulation.*

Keep it Cool. *About 80 percent of the energy used for washing clothes is used to heat the water. Reduce this cost by washing full loads and using cooler water when possible.*

Disconnect. *Nearly 75 percent of the energy consumed by home appliances occurs while they're turned off but still plugged in. Unplug items that don't require full-time connection or use surge protectors that can be flipped on or off as needed.*

Track Your Costs. *Try an on-line energy audits to help you determine where your money is being spent. The Alliance to Save Energy at www.ase.org, the EnergyGuide at www.energyguide.com, Energy Star at www.energystar.gov and Home Energy Saver at www.hes.lbl.gov all offer home audit information.*

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Save money. Good.

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Remember to Duct. *In houses with forced-air cooling systems, about 20 percent of the air is lost through the duct work. Seal the leaks with mastic tape or an aerosol-based sealant.*

See the Light. *Replace standard light bulbs with compact fluorescents (CFLs) in the fixtures you use the most and save \$7 per bulb per year. CFLs also produce about 75 percent less heat than traditional bulbs.*

Air it Out. *Use a line to dry clothes and air dry dishes rather than using the heated dry cycle in your dishwasher. Running either appliance creates additional heat in your home and uses electricity.*

Shop Wise. *When it's time to replace your air conditioner, look for the Energy Star label. Remember insulation and sealing air leaks will improve the energy performance of your air conditioner by keeping cool air inside.*

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What happens when you turn out the lights?

Your electric bill goes down, but that's not all.



Energy conservation matters. Start at home.

More People. More Benefit. *When you add your conservation efforts with those of your neighbors, it decreases the overall need for energy. Basically, the City of Boerne's power provider, LCRA, doesn't have to burn as much higher priced gas to produce electricity.*

Timing is Everything. *The demand for electricity is highest between 3 and 7 p.m. When you cut back on energy use during those hours, you help the City of Boerne and LCRA use the efficient power plants it already has available — avoiding the need to purchase power or natural gas at uncertain open market prices.*

What Else Can You Do. *Set the thermostat to 78 degrees or higher. Turn off all unnecessary lights and appliances. Use fans to help cool rooms you occupy. Close blinds and drapes to keep sunlight from heating your home. Avoid using large appliances like washers, dryers and dishwashers between 3 and 7 p.m.*

For more energy conservation tips visit: www.lcra.org



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